

COR-1245

26 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Department of State Officials on 25 July 61
re CORONA Contingency Cover Plan (COR-1221 dtd 19
July 61)

1. Participants:

Mr. Roger Hilleman, Dept. of State
Mr. Joseph Scott, Dept. of State

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[REDACTED], CIA
CIA

2. The discussion opened with the comment by Mr. Hilleman that the cover story for this contingency was inadequate and weak and should be positively stated in more truthful terms, as the incriminating evidence would indicate a reconnaissance effort. He was enlightened when informed that only the film is recoverable, and the camera with other components remain in orbit.

3. Mr. Hilleman was also of the view that one spokesman should be used throughout rather than attempt to divide responsibility for dealing with the press. He was further enlightened by the fact that the CORONA program has been overtly publicized as an Air Force effort and, as such, they have responsibility for launch and are thus looked upon by the press as the official spokesman through the various phases of satellite operation.

4. The attached is a draft prepared by the Department, which they intend to use as a basis for a final paper to be submitted to the Special Group for consideration of an amendment to the reference document.

It is believed that the reference to Tyros is meant to be same as orally discussed.

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Distribution:

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The discoverer satellite whose recoverable capsule reentered the atmosphere and was retrieved by the Government of _____, contained components of a future satellite system for taking pictures of the earth's surface and its cloud cover. It has a variety of scientific purposes including the study of weather and the improvement of maps. It is related to the Tyros system which we long ago announced as being intended to develop photographic potentialities from satellites. It might be added that in addition to the many valuable scientific purposes a perfected system will serve, it might also be extremely valuable in connection with any future international disarmament agreement.